(c) whether railways would drop the proposal in the interest of commuters from Raichur ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI B AND ARU D ATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to cancel the stoppage of Rajdhani Express train at Raichur, at present.

Jammu-Udhampur Rail link

4454. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jammu-Udhampur Rail link could not be completed so far, if so; the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the status of the projects for laying of railway line between Udhampur and Qazigund and Udhampur-Baramula; and

(c) what is the mode of funding for these projects, section-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The project has been progressed as per the availability of resources. Besides, the construction involved large number of tunnels and viaducts/bridges in difficult hilly terrain. The project is now in the advanced stage of completion and is targetted during 2003-04.

(b) The work of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula has been taken up in phases. Earthwork, bridge work and tunnelling is in various stages of progress on Udhampur-Katra section. On Qazigund-Baramula section, land acquisition, earthwork and bridge work is in progress. The work on Katra-Qazigund section has been entrusted to IRCON and KRCL and is being taken up.

(c) The funding of Jammu-Udhampur section is being done through budgetary support of the Railways. Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula has been declared as 'National Project' and funds are Being provided by Ministry of Finance as an additionality to the normal budgetary support for Railways.

Modernisation of stations in Gujarat

†4455. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the conditions of railway stations becoming worse due to over crowding at number of large stations of Gujarat;

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†Original notice of the question was reveived in Hindi.